

From: Bill Seward
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 8:44pm
Subject: proposed Microsoft settlement

Dear Sir or Madame:

I would like to request that you revisit your proposed settlement with Microsoft on the question of penalties for their behavior. Recent actions by Microsoft (their new licensing "agreement" and their Product Activation) seem to be more of the "same old, same old".

While I do not think a breakup of the corporation is called for, I do believe that it will require far more stringent measures to reform Microsoft. Their well-documented corporate culture is one of "win at all costs", and part of the cost has been a marketplace with true alternatives to their products. While there are Unix, the Apple Macintosh and the Open Source movement groups, the fact is that Microsoft operating systems are on over 50% of the servers and over 90% of the desktops in the US. Their browser and various office automation products control similarly extreme shares. While I am a free market supporter to the point of Libertarianism, this is not the sign of a healthy market. It is the sign of a market that has been skewed by the power and money that Microsoft controls. From my point of view as a network administrator and IT manager, Microsoft is the embodiment of the old "800 pound gorilla" joke.

Please come up with a settlement with some teeth, or we will be doomed to travel this same road again in the future.

Bill Seward